

3. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with a degree of substitution of 0.6-1.8.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 3-60, in particular 4-30.

5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2.

6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is inulin.

7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with at least one of acetyl and/or propionyl groups.

10. (Amended) Partially acetylated and/or propionylated fructan produced by acylation of the fructan or derivative thereof with a reactive acyl derivative of a acetic and/or propionic acid, characterised in that the acylation is carried out in an aqueous medium at a pH of between 7 and 9, wherein the fructan has solubility in water of at least 1 g/l.--